

## PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**  
**or Fax** **(571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

52082 7590 03/02/2010

General Electric Company  
 GE Global Patent Operation  
 2 Corporate Drive, Suite 648  
 Shelton, CT 06484

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

## Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/708,492 11/09/2000 Pui Lun Lau 11RC4937 2609

TITLE OF INVENTION: COMPUTER MULTIPLE COMMUNICATIONS PORT UNIT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
-------------	--------------	---------------	---------------------	----------------------	------------------	----------

nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$0 \$0 \$1510 06/02/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
----------	----------	----------------

BRUCKART, BENJAMIN R 2446 709-227000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 GE Global Patent Operation  
 2 Roger C. Phillips  
 3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

General Electric Company

Schenectady, New York

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☒ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☒ Issue Fee
- ☒ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 090470 (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature /Roger C. Phillips/

Date May 13, 2010

Typed or printed name Roger C. Phillips

Registration No. 37418

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Pui Lun Lau	)	
	)	Exr: B. Bruckart
	)	
Serial No.: 09/708,492	)	Art Unit: 2446
	)	
Filing Date: November 9, 2000	)	
	)	Atty Docket No.:
For: COMPUTER MULTIPLE COMMUNICATIONS PORT UNIT	)	11RC4937

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Supplemental Statement to the Examiner's Statement of the Substance of  
the Interview of February 12, 2010**

SIR:

Further to the Examiner's statement of the substance of the interview of February 12, 2010 provided with the Notice of Allowance, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited documents of record teach or suggest an apparatus or method comprising the combination of elements as defined in each of the independent claims 1 and 40. In particular, none of the cited documents teach or suggest a multiple port unit adapted for coupling one or more computers to multiple peripheral devices over a network, said multiple port unit comprising: plural network ports, each of said network ports being configured to couple the multiple port unit to a computer via one or more hubs over a respective network link; plural communication serial ports, each of said communication serial ports being configured to couple the multiple port unit to a peripheral device; and a control unit to interrogate the network links and to communicatively couple said communication serial ports to a selected one of said network ports based on the

interrogation of the network links, the control unit further determining whether it is time to interrogate the network links; and the control unit interrogating the network links including checking an availability of a computer over each of the network links including comparing a single current time value received from the computer with a previous single time value received from the computer, wherein each of the single time values received from the computer reflects a period of time from a particular reference time of a day and wherein the control unit determines whether the computer is available solely on whether the current single time value is greater than the previous single time value; wherein said network ports are configured to couple the multiple port unit to plural computers and wherein said control unit is configured to interrogate each of the plural computers and to select an active computer to control the peripheral devices based on the interrogation of the computers; further wherein the control unit is configured to identify a network link as not operating properly based on the interrogation and to prevent further interrogation thereof for a preset period of time.

Also, none of the cited documents teach or suggest a method of coupling plural peripheral devices to computers, said method comprising the steps of: interrogating the status of plural network connections with a control unit of a multiple port unit having plural network ports coupled to the computers via one or more hubs over the plural network connections and plural communication serial ports coupled to peripheral devices, the control unit determining whether it is time to interrogate prior to performing the interrogation; and coupling the plural

communication serial ports to one of the network connections based on the results of said step of interrogating the status of plural network connections; and the interrogating including checking an availability of a computer over each of the network links including comparing a single current time value received from the computer with a previous single time value received from the computer, wherein each of the single time values received from the computer reflects a period of time from a particular reference time of a day and wherein the availability of a computer is solely determined by whether the current single time value is greater than the previous single time value; interrogating the status of plural computers respectively coupled to the network connections; and controlling the peripheral devices based on the results of said step of interrogating the status of plural computers; and identifying a network link as not operating properly based on the interrogating and to prevent further interrogating thereof for a preset period of time.

Please charge any fees incurred in connection with this submission to  
Deposit Account No. 090470.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Roger C. Phillips/  
Roger C. Phillips, Reg. No. 37,418  
Attorney for Applicants

Date: May 13, 2010

General Electric Company  
GE Global Patent Operation